

21 January 1977

Executive Registry

77-3158

FROM: E. H. Knoche, Acting Director

1. In accordance with law and by direct request from President Carter, I now become Acting Director of Central Intelligence, pending confirmation of a successor to George Bush, whose resignation took effect 20 January.

2. Admiral Murphy remains the Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence Community and all other positions in the Agency's leadership are unchanged. For this interim period, certain functions of the DDCI will be assigned as follows:

a) Responsibility for program management, Agency budgets and other matters which relate to CIA business under the Community on Foreign Intelligence (which is chaired by the DCI) will be assigned to the CIA Comptroller.

b) Matters relating to CIA membership on the National Foreign Intelligence Board (which is also chaired by the DCI) will be the responsibility of the DDI.

c) The DDO will continue to be the DCI's representative on the Operations Advisory Working Group, although, as will be noted below, the designation of OAG will be changed under the new Administration.

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3. It is the intention of the Administration to create two bodies within the National Security Council Staff--the National Security Council Policy Review Committee (PRC), and the National Security Council Special Coordinating Committee (SCC). The first (PRC) will deal with policy formulation and with the national intelligence programs and budgets; the latter (SCC) with operational intelligence matters as a successor to the OAG. The SCC will also be responsible for SALF-related matters and for crisis management.

4. As you know, the President's Assistant for National Security Affairs is Zbigniew Brzezinski. His deputy is David Aaron, a former Foreign Service Officer and member of the National Security Council Staff under Henry Kissinger and more recently foreign policy assistant to Senator Mondale. Aaron was also on the staff of the Church Committee of which ~~Vice President~~ Mondale was a member. Appointed as a Special Assistant to Brzezinski is Rick Inderfurth, former staff assistant to Senator Gary Hart and more recently a member of the staff of the Church and Inouye Committees.

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5. And so we now move to provide the best possible intelligence support to the new Administration. I am confident that the dedication and competence which has always marked our efforts will continue without fear or favor and with devotion to the objectivity, timeliness, and accuracy of our intelligence information. I am proud of our [ ] performance and capability and know that we can demonstrate in the future the value of our

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activities as we work in support of the new Administration in the process of its policy formulation. I will need the help and support of all of you in the coming weeks to make good on our obligations, and I know I can count on it.

6. You must be curious about the Sorensen episode. I want you to know that this Agency extended itself to the utmost to be of assistance and support to Mr. Sorensen when he was designated to be DCI. We spent many hours in briefing him and he told me personally on several occasions of his great admiration for the people he was meeting and the competence he was encountering. The confirmation process itself is, of course, a personal one for the nominee and a political one in general. There was no proper role for the Agency to play with respect to the confirmation process and what ensued was a matter between the Senate Select Committee and Mr. Sorensen himself. I talked with Mr. Sorensen within a few hours after his withdrawal and he asked me to ensure that people at all levels in CIA understood his "tremendous impression" of the quality of the people and of his gratitude and appreciation for all the support he received. This word was passed by way of an employee bulletin, a copy of which I have asked be cabled to all field stations.

7. As you know, in his withdrawal statement Sorensen attributed his situation to the opposition of some in Congress and some in the Intelligence Community; though, in a press conference immediately thereafter, he went out of his way to talk about the support he had found in the Agency in the

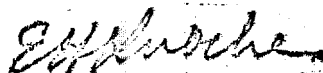
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process of his being briefed. There remains, of course, a good deal of media speculation as to what the Intelligence Community might have done to thwart the confirmation; the answer in my mind is clear: nothing. I do know of the discipline that exists within the Community. Institutionally the Agency is always responsive to those designated by higher authority to serve as its leaders. It is possible that individuals with past or present ties to the Community may have stated their personal views, pro or con, to certain members of the Senate Committee. But, in any case, it is inconceivable that members of the Inouye Committee would allow themselves to be manipulated or significantly swayed by any past or present Community employees or by any agencies the Senate Committee has under its oversight.

8. We will do our best to keep you posted on any changes in our work that may result from priorities and practices of the new Administration. In the meantime, keep up your excellent work. We are grateful for your efforts and we need your continuing support.



E. H. Knoche

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MEMORANDUM FOR: *Dick* *P*

I had copies made of this document in case you might like to pass them out at the 4 pm. staff meeting.



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Date

*Jan 21/45*

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